list of exports. In 1993-94 Budget, the system of market determined unified exchange rate has been introduced, custom and excise duties on raw meterials and capital goods and interest rate on rupee export credit has been reduced. Besides, 34 commodities have been identified as Extreme Focus Sectors for a special export thrust abroad. The EXIM Policy 1992—97 has been amended to include a scheme of export oriented units for agriculture and allied products. The State Governments are also being involved in export promotion efforts.

Pepper Production

543. SHRI PASUMPONTHA KIRIUTINAN
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) what has been the world pepper production during the current year, country-wise, figures;

(b) what is the present pepper price in the world market;

(c) what had been our pepper production during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) what has been our internal consumption of pepper during this period, year-wise;

(e) the quantity of pepper exported by Government during this period, year-wise, figures, what had been the balance of stock left during this period both with farmers and merchants; and

(f) whether any policy has been formulated to help pepper farmers; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED):

(a) World Pepper production during 1993 is given below:—

Country	Production (MT)
Brazil	23,000
India	55,000
Indonesia	37,500
Malaysia	20,000
Thailand	9,000
Sri Lanka	3,400

(*Source*: International Pepper Community).

(b) Current prices (July, 1993) quoted by major producing countries in the New York market are:

Indonesia	56 Cents/lb
Malaysia	56 Cents/lb
Brazil	56 Cents/lb

All Spot Prices

(*Source*: A.A. SAYIA & CO. INC. REPORT).

(c) All India production of pepper during the year 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 is as under:—

Year	Quantity (in '000 tonnes)
1989-90	55.2
1990-91	48.0
1991-92	42.7

(d) No specific details are available for internal consumption. However, approximate internal consumption of pepper is estimated to be around 30,000 MT.

(e) Export of pepper during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1990-91	29,985	102.40
1991-92 (P)	20,665	74.21
1992-93 (E)	25,480	83.17

(P) Provisional (E) Estimated.

It is not possible to correctly estimate the stock held by farmers and traders. However, trade estimates indicate that stock with traders/farmers is approximately around 10,000 — 12,000 MT during the current year.

(f) A number of measures have been taken by the Government with a view to help pepper farmers. These are:—

(i) Government approved Market Intervention Scheme for Black Pepper under which a total quantity of 3000 MT of Black Pepper has been procured by NAFED and Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation at Market Intervention Price of Rs. 33 per kg.

(ii) As a short term measure, the Govern-

ment have announced suspension of export cess on pepper till 30-9-1993.

(iii) Educating the farmers to upgrade the quality of pepper through scientific post harvest processing for improving quality and promoting export.

Impact of Acceptance of Dunkel's Proposals on New Drug Policy

544. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the impact of acceptance of the Dunkel's proposals on the New Drug Policy enumerated by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the acceptance of the proposal would retard the growth of the Domestic Pharmaceuticals Industries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Dunkel Proposals would result in drastic reduction in export trade in the field of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals; and

(d) whether the prices of the common Drugs would shoot up manifolds in the event of acceptance of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFARIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Acceptance of the Dunkel proposals would imply that the manufacture of drugs patented after the Agreement comes into effect, could be taken up only by the patent holder or his licencee. The manufacture and marketing of drugs already in the market or patented before the Agreement comes into effect would not be affected.

If India signs the TRIPs Agreement it is anticipated that the impact in respect of exports will be limited to new drugs, and to countries which are not providing patent protection for drugs. The number of such countries is dwingling.

Medicines covered by product patents would tend to have higher prices than those not covered by patents because of the exclusive rights granted under the patent system. It is however, not possible to quantify precisely the extent of price rise that may result from the patent system because this would depend on various factors like, availability of alternative non-patented medicines, the nature and extent of the demand for the medicine, price control mechanism, etc. As for the likely general impact on prices of medicines, it may be stated that about 10-15% of the total production of drugs in the country would at best be covered by product patents granted in other countries.

International Pepper Community Conference

545. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY
SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India participated in the International Pepper Community Conference; if so, the sponsor of this conference and when the conference took place and where;

(b) the names of the Indian representatives in the conference alongwith the deliberation made by the conference;

(c) whether the conference took any decision; if so, the details thereof;

(d) what was India's stand in the conference on the various issues;

(e) what has been the outcome of the conference since then whether India have achieved any tangible results in the World Pepper Market; and

(f) whether any policy decision has been taken by Government to help Indian farmers to receive remunerative price in the market; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian participated in the 21st session of the International Pepper Community (IPC) and related meetings at Bali, Indonesia during 7-11 June, 1993.

(b) Shri Ashok Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Plenipoteniary Representative of India, Shri T. Nadakumar, Chairman, Spices Board and Shri N. G. Panicker, exporter attended the meetings.

(c) IPC member-countries took stock of the global situation of production, consumption and marketing of pepper and considered various possibilities of arresting the decline in pepper prices. Two strategies were discussed, namely a Voluntary Stock Retention Scheme by